

Patent claims

1. An apparatus for actuating an electrical switching  
5 device having at least one moving contact piece,  
the at least one moving contact piece being driven  
via a rotating shaft (10),  
characterized in that  
an electric motor having a rotating drive shaft  
10 (18), which can be coupled to the rotating shaft  
(10) for the switching device by means of a gear  
mechanism, is provided for the purpose of driving  
the rotating shaft (10).
- 15 2. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, characterized  
in that, in the case of multi-pole, in particular  
three-pole, switching devices, an electric motor  
is provided for the purpose of driving all of the  
switch poles.
- 20 3. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, characterized  
in that, in the case of multi-pole, in particular  
three-pole, switching devices, a separate electric  
motor is provided for the purpose of driving each  
25 switch pole.
4. The apparatus as claimed in one of the preceding  
claims, characterized  
in that the central axis of the drive shaft (18)  
30 runs parallel to the central axis of the rotating  
shaft (10).
5. The apparatus as claimed in one of the preceding  
claims, characterized  
35 in that the electric motor is in the form of a  
servomotor.

6. The apparatus as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the gear mechanism is in the form of a lever mechanism.  
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7. The apparatus as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that the lever mechanism is dimensioned such that a rotation of the drive shaft (18) of the electric motor through at most 180° brings about a switching operation of the switching device.  
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8. The apparatus as claimed in either of claims 6 and 7, characterized in that an intermediate piece, preferably a circular disk (26), is fixed to the drive shaft (18) of the electric motor, and that end of the connecting rod (14) which faces the drive shaft (18) can be connected to said intermediate piece at at least two distances from the central axis of the drive shaft (18).  
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9. The apparatus as claimed in one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the gear mechanism is in the form of a toothed belt drive.  
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10. The apparatus as claimed in claim 9, characterized in that the toothed belt drive has a transmission ratio of 1:1 to 1:6, preferably 1:3.5.  
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11. A switching device having at least one apparatus for actuating purposes as claimed in one of the preceding claims.